AMENDED CLAIMS

1) (Currently Amended) An adjustable shroud for use in a melt spinning process having a spinneret, comprising: an adjustable shroud, said shroud having means to secure it in close proximity ~~to a~~ beneath said spinneret, and means to adjust the length of the shroud.

2) (Original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said adjustable shroud is quadrilateral, oval or circular in cross-section.

3) (Original) The adjustable shroud of claim 2, wherein two fixed walls form said quadrilateral shroud with two folding walls.

4) (Original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said shroud is in the form of a bellows or of nesting walls.

5) (Original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said means to adjust the length of said shroud is pneumatic, hydraulic, or one or more mechanical worm screws.

6) (Original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said shroud contains heating means.

7) (Currently Amended) The combination of an adjustable shroud and a spinneret, comprising a spinneret for producing synthetic fibers; an adjustable shroud having means to secure it in close proximity ~~to~~ beneath said spinneret, and means to adjust the length of the shroud; said shroud containing heating means.

8) (Original) The combination of claim 8, wherein said adjustable shroud is quadrilateral or circular in cross-section.

9) (Original) The combination of claim 8, wherein two fixed walls form said quadrilateral shroud with two folding walls.

10) (Original) The combination of claim 7, wherein said shroud is in the form of a bellows or of nesting walls.

11) (Original) The combination of claim7, wherein said means to adjust the length of said shroud is pneumatic, hydraulic, or one or more mechanical worm screws.

12) (Withdrawn) A melt spinning process for making synthetic fiber, comprising: a) determining the optimum cooling and draw down ratio of said fibers; b) adjusting the shroud length to obtain the optimum cooling and draw down ratio; c) spinning fibers from a polymer melt; and d) passing said spun fibers through said shroud.

13) (Withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, wherein said adjustable shroud is quadrilateral or circular in cross-section.

14) (Withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 13, wherein two fixed walls form said quadrilateral shroud with two folding walls.

15) (Withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, wherein said shroud is in the form of a bellows or of nesting walls.

16) (Withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, wherein adjusting said length of said shroud is accomplished by pneumatic, hydraulic, or one or more mechanical worm screws.

17) (Withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, further including the step of heating said spun fibers as they pass through said shroud.